(c) whether Government support the view that the countries violating human rights should get financial assistance from the developed nations?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) : (a) and (b) Government has laid stress on the importance of promoting development and eradicating poverty and ensuring that development remains the primary focus of international cooperation. At the same time, it remains firmly committed to human rights, democracy and the rule of law. These commitments are not and need not be mutually exclusive.

(c) to (e) While Government has repeatedly emphasised its support for human rights, democracy and rule of law, it has conveyed in international fora and in its bilateral contacts that it is inappropriate to utilize these as non-economic conditionalities for development assistance.

2550. [*Transferred to the 18th December, 1991*]

U.N. convention on rights of the child

2551. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for the delay in ratifying the U.N. convention on the rights of the child;

(b) the steps taken so far to expedite ratification ; and

(c) the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) : (a) to (c) The ratification process involves extensive consultations with different Ministries of the Government. These are expected to be completed shortly.

Relief to cyclone hit Bangladesh

2552. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent havoc caused in Bangladesh by the cyclone and urgent need for relief on a Government and non-Government basis and if so, Government's response thereto ; and

(b) whether Government propose to utilise the services of NGOs working in India in close cooperation with other countries in the Indian subcontinent?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) : (a) Government have extended relief assistance worth Rs. 11.5 crores in kind for the victims of the severe cyclone that struck Bangladesh on 29-30 April, 1991.

(b) Government are willing to consider utilising the services of NGOs working in India in close cooperation with other countries in the Indian subcontinent for relief assistance, on a case by case basis.

Fate of Indian community in South Africa

2553. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the million strong Indian Community in South Africa is concerned about their future as the country prepares for transition to a port apartheid era according to a news published in Hindustan Times on 24th November, 1991;

(b) what is the total number of Indians in South Africa;

(c) whether it is also fact that ever since their presence in South Africa, the local Indian people are being discriminated and are denied the right to vote, and treated as third and fourth class citizens in all the respects of life; and

(d) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) : (a) Some members of the Indian community in South Africa have expressed concern in this regard.

(b) At present there are approximately 1 million persons of Indian origin in South Africa.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In protest against the South African Government's apartheid policies, India was first country to break-off trade relations with South Africa in 1946. India was also the first country to inscribe the issue of apartheid on the agenda of the United Nations. We